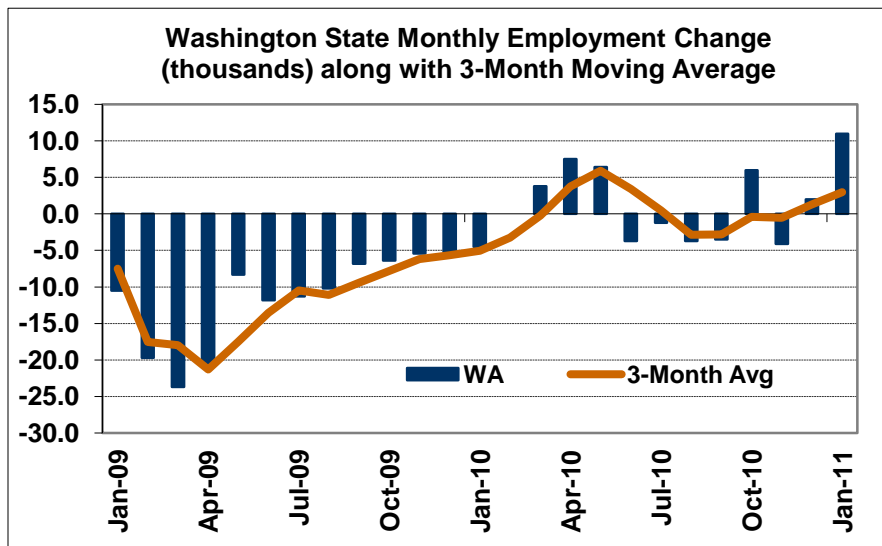




*Senator Eide's Week in Review
February 28-March 4*

In the Spotlight: Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

This week the Employment Security Department announced 11,000 new jobs during January for Washington State. This is the largest monthly increase in jobs since the beginning of the economic recession in November 2007. This is great news for our state. Getting people back to work is a priority of mine and I am pleased to announce this promising rise in employment. New jobs were found in professional and business services, education and health services, retail, leisure and hospitality, among many others. You can read more about the increase in *The Olympian* by clicking [here](#) or visiting the Employment Security Department announcement [here](#).



Graph courtesy of Employment Security Department.

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

Colby Thompson Bill

WA Budget Update

This Week's Visitors

Contact Information:

Olympia Office:
305 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0430

Phone: (360) 786-7658

Toll-free legislative hotline:
1-800-562-6000

TTY/TDD Hearing impaired
hotline: 1-800-635-9993

The accompanying graph shows the January 2011 growth and the increasing job growth trend. This news is very promising as we expect to see the economic forecast released by the state's Economic and Revenue Forecast Council on March 17. Early predictions show continued private sector job growth.

Aerospace training student loan program: I'm pleased to announce that [Senate Bill 5674](#), creating an aerospace training student loan program, passed unanimously out of the Senate on Monday. This legislation will assist in training workers to fill many of these family wage, high demand aerospace positions. The award of the \$35 billion Boeing tanker contract alongside our already growing aerospace industry highlight the need for this legislation. It is estimated that this contract will create 11,000 new jobs for Boeing. Without increasing training opportunities and enrollment, aerospace companies will be forced to import labor into Washington. When our state unemployment rate continues to hover around nine percent, we simply cannot afford to let this opportunity pass by.

E-mail:
tracey.eide@leg.wa.gov

Web site:
<http://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/senators/eide>

Colby Thompson Bill:

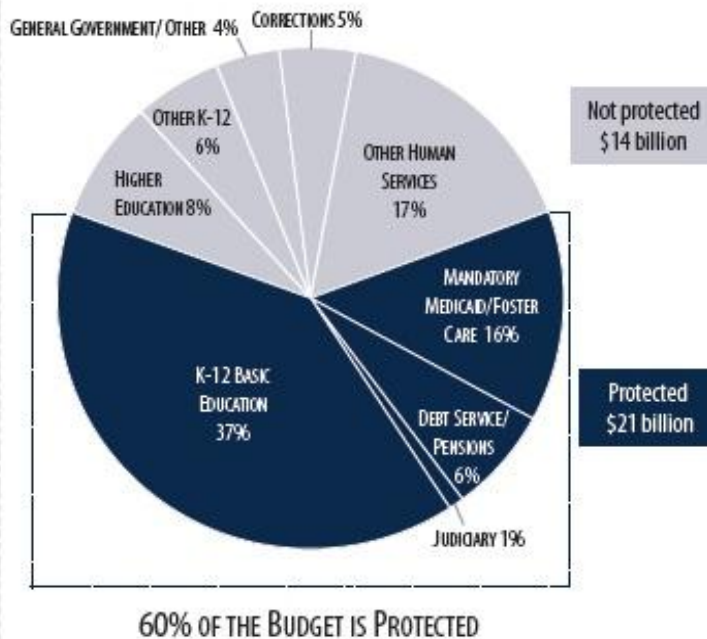
Senate Bill 5504, dubbed the Colby Thompson Bill of 2011, was named after an infant who was abused in an unlicensed child care facility. This bill moves Washington one step closer to ensuring that our children are in the hands of educated, competent care providers. The Colby Thompson Bill was voted out of the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. Next, the bill moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

Washington State Budget Update:

This year, legislators are faced with the difficult task of crafting the state budget for the 2011-13 biennium. In the last two years the Governor and the legislature have cut \$12 billion from the state budget—and this year it looks like we will have to cut \$5 billion more.

Last session the legislature passed a limited tax package of \$761 million to fund critical education, health care and social service programs. Last year, I voted for this revenue package because I am a strong supporter of our schools, ensuring children and families have access to health care as well as helping those in great need. Last November, Washington and 30th District voters overwhelmingly passed Initiative 1107 (two out of every three voters) and in doing so eliminated the \$761 million that funded so many needed programs. Voters state-wide

MAJORITY OF \$35 BILLION BUDGET IS PROTECTED TIED TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OR FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS



Office of Financial Management
December 2010

and in the 30th District also passed Initiative 1053 that requires a two-thirds majority to close tax loopholes or increase revenue. I have heard and received your message loud and clear.

As the economic recession continues, the legislature is facing yet another shortfall: \$5 billion. Of Washington's \$35 billion budget, 60% is protected by Constitutional or federal requirements. That means we have \$14 billion from which we must cut \$5 billion. This area is made up of human services such as health care and job training, corrections and prisons, higher education and various critical K-12 programs. Governor Chris Gregoire has already released her budget proposal and the Senate and House of Representatives are hard at work crafting their own versions. This will undoubtedly be a long and painful process for everyone; the Senate will release its budget in mid-March.

I am deeply concerned that vital and valued services will be cut. Many of these are public services that I took office to protect—like public education, public safety and health care. But, we are faced with a stark reality and have few options

to choose from. As the coming weeks unfold, I will be sure to stay in constant communication to keep you updated on our progress.

This Week's Visitors from the 30th District:

If you are ever in Olympia and are from the 30th District, please visit my office: Legislative Building 305. I would love to see you!

- *Richard Lundgren, Alzheimer's Association
- *Joe Hawe, Criminal Justice Training Commission
- *John-Paul Chaisson
- *Mia Franklin, Evan Abadinas, Martin Rivero, and Hameed Quraishi; Arc of Washington
- *Shannon Rasmussen, Kim Thomas, Lyndsey Ryerson; teachers
- *Bryan Tapia, Executive Director of Hallmark Manor